

**Montana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks**



3201 Spurgin Road
Missoula, MT 59801

April 20, 1995

To: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Bldg., Helena, MT 59260
Dept. of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's office
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks
 Director's Office
 Park's Division
 Fisheries Division
 Wildlife Division
 Regional Supervisor
 Lands Section
 Design & construction
 Legal Unit
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office
Montana State Library
Jim Jensen, MT Environmental Info. Center, POB 1184, Helena, MT 59624
Janet Ellis Montana Audubon Council, POB 924, Helena, MT 59924
Wildlife Federation, POB 653, Bozeman, MT 59715
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation, POB 728, Libby, MT 59923
George Ochenski, POB 689, Helena, MT 59624
County Commissioners
Other Local Interested People or Groups

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Frenchtown Pond State Park, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until May 12, 1995. If you have questions, feel free to contact me at (406)543-5500. All comments may be sent to the undersigned.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Dale D. Carlson
Park Operations Specialist
Region 2

STATE DOCUMENTS COLLECTION

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MEPA/HB495 CHECKLIST

PART I. PROPOSED ACTION DESCRIPTION

1. Type of Proposed State Action Tree Planting and Irrigation System Installation
2. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action Sections 23-1-101 and 23-1-102, MCA
provide general authority to the department to manage the state parks system.
3. Name of Project Frenchtown Pond Tree Planting
4. Name, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor (if other than the agency)
5. If Applicable:

Estimated Construction/Commencement Date May 15, 1995
Estimated Completion Date May 30, 1995
Current Status of Project Design (% complete) 50%
6. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township)
Missoula County Section 28, T15N, R21W. The project is located approximately 17 miles west of Missoula and about 1/4 mile north of I-90.
7. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

(a) Developed: residential <u>0</u> acres industrial <u>0</u> acres	(d) Floodplain <u>0</u> acres
(b) Open Space/Woodlands/ Recreation <u>5</u> acres	(e) Productive: irrigated cropland . . . <u>0</u> acres dry cropland <u>0</u> acres forestry <u>0</u> acres rangeland <u>0</u> acres other <u>0</u> acres
(c) Wetlands/Riparian Areas <u>0</u> acres	
8. Map/site plan: attach an original 8 1/2" x 11" or larger section of the most recent USGS 7.5' series topographic map showing the location and boundaries of the area that would be affected by the proposed action. A different map scale may be substituted if more appropriate or if required by agency rule. If available, a site plan should also be attached.

9. **Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.** Frenchtown Pond State Park located west of Missoula has been managed by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks since 1972. Once a gravel pit, this site has been developed and managed for recreation. Frenchtown Pond has been a popular spot for swimming, picnicking, fishing and non-motorized boating. Due to the openness and the close proximity to interstate 90, Frenchtown Pond State Park needs trees. This project would benefit the park by providing the trees needed to stabilize the soil, screen the site from the noise from the interstate and provide shade for the recreating public as well as provide wildlife habitat.

10. **Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.**

(a) Permits:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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(b) Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
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Dept. of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Type of Responsibility</u>
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State Historical Preservation Office

Dept. of Transportation

11. **List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:**
SHPO

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. <u>LAND RESOURCES</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
► a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?		X				
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?		X				
► c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		X				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to earthquakes, landslides, ground failure, or other natural hazard?		X				
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. <u>AIR</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
► a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality? (also see 13 (c))		X				
b. Creation of objectionable odors?		X				
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture, or temperature patterns or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?		X				
d. Adverse effects on vegetation, including crops, due to increased emissions of pollutants?		X				
e. ♦For P-R/D-J projects, will the project result in any discharge which will conflict with federal or state air quality regs? (Also see 2a)						
f. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated
- ♦ Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8 604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts
- ♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

3. <u>WATER</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^p	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?		X				
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?		X				
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		X				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		X				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		X				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?		X				
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		X				
h. Increase in risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?		X				
i. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		X				
j. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?		X				
k. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		X				
l. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect a designated floodplain? (Also see 3c)						
m. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project result in any discharge that will affect federal or state water quality regulations? (Also see 3a)						
n. Other _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Water Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed).

- ^o Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8 604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

4. <u>VEGETATION</u>	IMPACT ^a				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^d	Comment Index
	Unknown ^a	None	Minor ^c	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			X			
b. Alteration of a plant community?		X				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		X				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?		X				
f. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect wetlands, or prime and unique farmland?						
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4a. This tree planting project will include trees common and abundant to the area.

^a Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).

♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.

♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

► 5. <u>FISH/WILDLIFE</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Deterioration of critical fish or wildlife habitat?		X				
b. Changes in the diversity or abundance of game animals or bird species?		X				
c. Changes in the diversity or abundance of nongame species?		X				
d. Introduction of new species into an area?		X				
e. Creation of a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?		X				
f. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered species?		X				
g. Increase in conditions that stress wildlife populations or limit abundance (including harassment, legal or illegal harvest or other human activity)?		X				
h. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project be performed in any area in which T&E species are present, and will the project affect any T&E species or their habitat? (Also see 5f)						
i. ♦For P-R/D-J, will the project introduce or export any species not presently or historically occurring in the receiving location? (Also see 5d)						
j. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed)

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. <u>NOISE/ELECTRICAL EFFECTS</u> Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated?	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?			X			
b. Exposure of people to serve or nuisance noise levels?		X				
c. Creation of electrostatic or electromagnetic effects that could be detrimental to human health or property?		X				
d. Interference with radio or television reception and operation?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed): 6a. When pump is running for irrigation.

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.
- Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM).
- ♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

7. <u>LAND USE</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		X				
b. Conflicted with a designated natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		X				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		X				
d. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		X				
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

8. <u>RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Risk of an explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to oil, pesticides, chemicals, or radiation) in the event of an accident or other forms of disruption?		X				
b. Affect an existing emergency response or emergency evacuation plan or create a need for a new plan?		X				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any chemical toxicants be used? (Also see 8a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed)

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- Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8 604-1a (ARM).
- ♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts.
- ♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

9. <u>COMMUNITY IMPACT</u>	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		X				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		X				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		X				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		X				
e. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		X				
f. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed)

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

10. <u>PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES</u>	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Will the proposed action have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered governmental services in any of the following areas: fire or police protection, schools, parks/recreational facilities, roads or other public maintenance, water supply, sewer or septic systems, solid waste disposal, health, or other governmental services? If any, specify: _____		X				
b. Will the proposed action have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?		X				
c. Will the proposed action result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		X				
d. Will the proposed action result in increased used of any energy source?		X				
▶ e. Define projected revenue sources		X				
▶ f. Define projected maintenance costs		X				
g. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed)

* Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated

Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12 8.604-1a (ARM)

♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts

♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

▶ 11. <u>AESTHETICS/RECREATION</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
a. Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or effect that is open to public view?		X				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		X				
▶ c. Alteration of the quality or quantity of recreational/tourism opportunities and settings? (Attach Tourism Report)		X				
d. ♦For P-R/D-J, will any designated or proposed wild or scenic rivers, trails or wilderness areas be impacted? (Also see 11a, 11c)						
e. Other: <u>screening of offensive site</u>			X			

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed)

11e. This project will enhance the aesthetics of the area by screening the interstate.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

12. <u>CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES</u>	IMPACT ^o				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^o	Comment Index
	Unknown ^o	None	Minor ^o	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action result in:						
▶ a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric historic, or paleontological importance?		X				
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural values?		X				
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?		X				
d. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, will the project affect historic or cultural resources? Attach SHPO letter of clearance. (Also see 12.a)						
e. Other: _____						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed)

- ° Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated
- Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts
- ♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE	IMPACT*				Can Impact Be Mitigated ^g	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant		
Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:						
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		X				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		X				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		X				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		X				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		X				
f. ♦For P-R/D-J, is the project expected to have organized opposition or generate substantial public controversy? (Also see 13e)						
g. ♦♦For P-R/D-J, list any federal or state permits required.						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

- * Include a narrative explanation under Part III describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated
- ♦ Indicates the need to include a narrative description addressing the items identified in 12.8.604-1a (ARM)
- ♦ Indicates the need to determine whether the described impact may result and respond on the checklist. Describe any minor or potentially significant impacts
- ♦♦ Indicates the need to include a discussion about that issue in the EA narrative and include documentation as indicated

2. Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative A: Plant trees and install an irrigation system to screen the site from noise from the interstate, provide needed shade trees and to stabilize the soil while providing habitat for wildlife.

Alternative B: Plant trees in phases to allow a gradual change in the noise screening process, soil stabilization and the establishment of shade trees.

Alternative C: Do nothing and leave the site the way it presently exists.

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

The State Historical Preservation Office has given cultural clearance to Frenchtown Pond State Park. Given the environmental context and past disturbance at this site, the tree planting and irrigation system project would have a low likelihood for impacting significant cultural resources.

4. Based on the significance criteria evaluated in this EA, is an EIS required? YES / NO If an EIS is not required, explain why the EA is the appropriate level of analysis for this proposed action:

An EIS is not required. After completing the checklist provided without finding any actions which would cause a potentially significant impact in any phase of the project and the minor impacts are short lived during the project period, therefore, an EA is adequate in evaluating this proposed action.

5. Describe the level of public involvement for this project if any and, given the complexity and the seriousness of the environmental issues associated with the proposed action, is the level of public involvement appropriate under the circumstances?

There has been no formal public involvement because of the minimal level of development and impacts involved. this draft document will be made available for public comment and is the appropriate level for public involvement.

6. Duration of comment period if any:

April 28, - May 12, 1995

7. Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Dale Carlson (Park Operations Specialist) 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT
Lee Bastian (Regional Park Manager) 3201 Spurgin Road, Missoula, MT

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

Frenchtown Pond State Park is a popular site for recreationist such as swimmers, fishermen, boaters and picnickers. The planting of trees and the installation of an irrigation system will enhance Frenchtown Pond State Park by providing trees for shade, screening the site from the interstate noise, stabilizing the soil and providing wildlife habitat. This project would be a benefit for all users of the site.

This proposed project enables the parks division to address and meet goal B of the Departments vision statement.

Goal B: Provide increased opportunities for public enjoyment of Fish, Wildlife and Parks resources, while maintaining our commitment to improve landowner/sportsman department relations.

State Historic Preservation Office

Montana Historical Society

MAY 12 1993

102 Broadway • P.O. Box 201202 • Helena, MT 59620-1202 • 406/444-7715

FISH, WILDLIFE AND PARKS
REGIONAL OFFICE

MAY 5, 1993

Paul Valle
Fish, Wildlife and Parks
Capitol Complex
Helena, MT 59620

MAY 07 1993

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
BUREAU

RE: Montana Conservation Corps projects

Dear Paul:

Thank you for forwarding the information of the two projects below. Our comments follow:

Group Use Shelter, Frenchtown State Park - Given the environmental context and past disturbance at this site, we believe that the proposed activity has a low likelihood for impacting significant cultural resources.

Salmon Lake Park Ampitheatre - Given the history of use of the area we believe that there is a low likelihood for impacts to intact cultural resources. We do recommend that attention be given to the excavated deposits and backdirt removed from the site. If any cultural deposits are encountered during land disturbing impacts, further impacts to the site of discovery should be avoided and a professional archaeologist should inspect and evaluate the deposits before any new impacts are initiated.

Thank you for consulting with us.

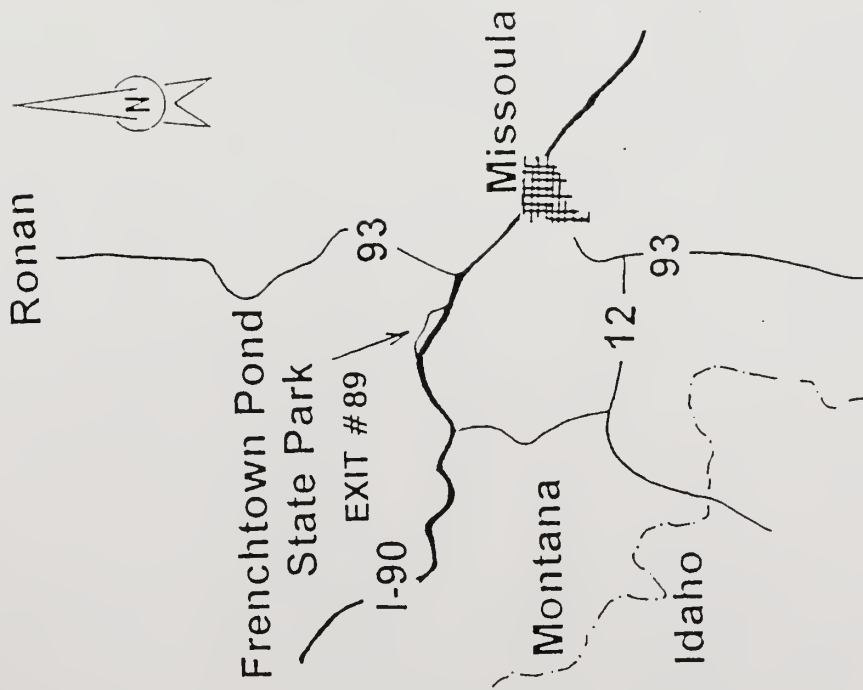
Sincerely,



David Schwab
State Archaeologist

File:FWP, 93

Frenchtown Pond State Park is located 15 miles west of Missoula on I-90 off of exit #89.



Legend

- existing road
- proposed road
- existing fence
- existing vegetation
- proposed comfort station
- proposed well
- proposed table
- proposed water
- proposed plant
- proposed power
- proposed barriers

area orientation

trailer sanitation

existing signs

bar scale



sec. 28
sec. 33

boat access

day-use

pond

beach

swimming

bugy

day-use

Interstate 90

Frenchtown Pond Planting Screen

Plant Key

- 20 Ponderosa Pine
- 15 Scotch Pine
- 10 Alpine Fir
- 15 Engelman Spruce
- 20 Cottonwood
- 30 Willow

railroad

PRC will build 2.5 mile long water main
along with new 21" x 10' long water
main. Approx. 100' x 50' ft. water main
will be installed. The water main will be
installed along the railroad right-of-way.

STATE OF MONTANA
FISH AND GAME COMMISSION
RECREATION AND PARKS DIVISION
master site plan
frenchtown pond
frenchtown, montana
r.mayer 3/72

